Docket No. HRT-0293

We have the

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Stevens et al.

Serial No.

.

Art Unit

Filed

March 15, 2002

Examiner

Title

: Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

March 15, 2002 (Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

March 15, 2002

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment in the above application, which is a continuation of copending application application Serial No. 09/411,095, filed October 4, 1999.

In the Claims:

Please cancel, claims 1-20 and add claims 21-29, as follows:

21. A method of forming a lesion in heart tissue of a patient, comprising:

providing an electrophysiological ablating device comprising at least one electrode; creating an opening in a patient's chest, the opening passing through the chest wall and into the patient's thorapid cavity;

passing the electrode through the opening;

positioning the electrode adjacent to heart tissue; and